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Cancer Advocates Laud Governor's Effort to Insure more Arizonans

Statement of Brian Hummell, Arizona government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

PHOENIX, AZ – February 14, 2013 – "Governor Brewer's plan to allow Medicaid coverage to more Arizonans demonstrates true leadership in the fight against cancer, a disease which kills more than 11,000 people in Arizona each year. The Governor's proposal demonstrates great responsibility and, if enacted, has the potential to eliminate barriers for the proper diagnosis, treatment and care of cancer patients. We encourage members of the Legislature to join with Governor Brewer in using the state's highly performing Medicaid program to provide health insurance to our most vulnerable populations and mend our public health safety net.

"ACS CAN stands ready to participate in the implementation of the plan that will extend lifesaving health insurance coverage to more than 57,000 low-income Arizonans and restore the population already approved by Arizona's voters. It is simply the right thing to do as a public health policy as well as sound fiscal policy.

In 2013, it is estimated that more than 1.6 million people in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 580,000 people will die from the disease. In Arizona this year, an estimated 34,010 people will be diagnosed with cancer."

ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate organization of the American Cancer Society, dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage lawmakers, candidates and government officials to support laws and policies that will make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer. For more information, visit www.acscan.org.

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